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after filtering the L+R signal and the L-R signal, combining the filtered L+R signal and the filtered L-R signal to produce a left channel output signal and a right channel output signal.

22. (Original) A method as in claim 21, wherein said step of filtering the L+R signal and said step of filtering the L-R signal are performed using at least one FIR filter.

23. (Original) A method as in claim 21, wherein said step of filtering the L+R signal and said step of filtering the L-R signal are performed in software.

24. (Original) A method as in claim 23, further comprising:

providing software modifiable filter coefficients.

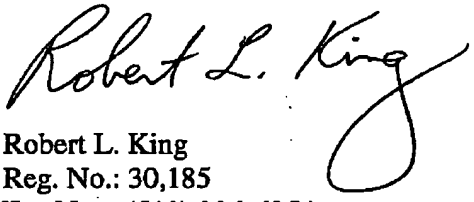
REMARKS

Applicants are herein filing a Preliminary Amendment to amend claims 1, 8 and 18-21. Applicants request the review and allowance of the pending application. The claims, as amended herein, further distinguish the present invention from the art made of record by reciting a decoder that uses a mixer (multiplier 370) to generate an intermediate signal having a pilot signal much lower in frequency than a pilot signal of an input signal. The lower frequency pilot signal allows the use of a digital PLL to generate trigonometric functions (sin and cos) that are used to form an L-R signal in a very cost effective manner that removes noise without also removing significant signal information as explained in Applicants' specification at page 2, lines 11-17.

No amendment made herein is related to the statutory requirements of patentability unless expressly stated herein. No amendment made was for the purpose of narrowing the scope of any claim, unless Applicants have argued herein that such amendment was made to distinguish over a particular reference or combination of references.

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at (512) 996-6839.

Respectfully submitted,



SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:
Motorola, Inc.
Law Department
Customer Number: 23125

Robert L. King
Reg. No.: 30,185
Fax No.: (512) 996-6854